

## First scientific trip to the South West Van Lake Region (6-8 March,2008)



Fig. 1- Northern slopes of Artos Mountain, Gevaş, Van Province (6.3.2008, photo A.Koçak, Cesa©)

by  
**Muhabbet Kemal & Ahmet Ömer Koçak**

The following notes and images reflect the results of our first trip to the mountainous region of the South West Van Lake (East Turkey) in this year. The visit was realized by the authors between 6-8 March 2008. Our students of Master Degree Erdem Seven and Deniz Geçer participated to us in Siirt Province during our studies there. The temperature in Van Province was nearly  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the nights. All the mountains in the south of the lake were covered by snows between 0,5 and 2m high. The day temperature was around  $+3-4^{\circ}\text{C}$  during our departure. At a place near Reşadiye in Bitlis Province, first author observed and photographed some flies on the snow layers (probably Chironomids)<sup>1</sup>. In the lower Baykan valley, around 700m high above sea level, we recorded some moth species. In Eruh District, some termites

<sup>1</sup> cf. Chironomidae Research Group, University of Minnesota <http://www.entomology.umn.edu/midge/Winteractivemidges.htm>

under the stones were found.<sup>2</sup> Separately, two Cicindelid species were recorded in Siirt Province, one of them is *Calomera fischeri*.

In Siirt Province, we had only three days for all our observing and recording activities. For these purpose, we visited upper Şirvan, lower Siirt, and west of Erüh District.

Brief scientific results and complementary images taken by the authors are presented below:



**Fig. 2-** Eastern slopes of Kusgunkiran Pass, a classical collecting site situated in Gevaş District, Van Province (6.3.2008, photo A.Koçak, Cesa©)



**Fig. 3-** Western slopes of Kusgunkiran Pass, a classical collecting site situated in Gevaş District, Van Province (6.3.2008, photo A.Koçak, Cesa©)

<sup>2</sup> The species may be *Reticulitermes lucifugus*(Rossi) in the family *Rhinotermitidae*.





**Fig. 4-** A place near Reşadiye (Tatvan District, Bitlis Province) (6.3.2008, photo M.Kemal, Cesa©)



**Fig. 5-** Winter active Chironomids on snows at a place near Reşadiye (Tatvan District, Bitlis Province) (6.3.2008, photo M.Kemal, Cesa©)





**Fig. 6-** Muhabbet Kemal, first author after recording the Chimomids near Reşadiye (Tatvan District, Bitlis Province) (6.3.2008, photo A.Ö.Koçak, Cesa©)



**Fig. 7-** Around Reşadiye (Tatvan District, Bitlis Province) (6.3.2008, photo A.Ö.Koçak, Cesa©)





**Fig. 8-** Tatvan and Nemrut Volcano (Bitlis Province) (6.3.2008, photo A.Ö.Koçak, Cesa©)



**Fig. 9-** Warmer Siirt Valley in the South-West part of Van Lake Region (6.3.2008, photo A.Ö.Koçak, Cesa©)





Fig. 10- Male of *Apochima flabellaria* (Geometridae)<sup>3</sup> at rest in Baykan District (Siirt Prov.) (6.3.2008, photo M.Kemal, Cesa©)



Fig. 11- An aspect of Şirvan city, where we stayed. (Siirt Province) (6.3.2008, photo M.Kemal, Cesa©)

<sup>3</sup> According to the Infosystem of the Cesa, *Apochima flabellaria* (Heeger, 1838) is recorded in the following 8 Provinces of Turkey: Çanakkale, Eskişehir, Hatay, İstanbul, Malatya, Manisa, Kahramanmaraş, and Siirt.





**Fig. 12-** A studying site in Şirvan District, where *Libythea celtis*<sup>4</sup>, *Nymphalis xanthomelas*<sup>5</sup>, and *Polygonia egea*<sup>6</sup> were recorded after hibernation (Siirt Province) (7.3.2008, photo A.Ö.Koçak, Cesa©)



**Fig. 13-** At the same place the Orthopteran insects in Şirvan District, where the nymphs of *Acrida* (or *Truxalis*), adults of *Aiolopus* sp., *Acrotylus* sp. (*Acrididae*, *Oedipodinae*), and *Tetrix* sp. (*Tetrigidae*) were recorded after hibernation (Siirt Province) (7.3.2008, photo M.Kemal, Cesa©)

<sup>4</sup> New faunal record to the Siirt Province.

<sup>5</sup> New faunal record to the Siirt Province

<sup>6</sup> New faunal record to the Siirt Province





**Fig. 14-** At the same place in Şirvan District, photographing the nymph of *Acrida* (or *Truxalis* ) by M. Kemal (Siirt Province) (7.3.2008, photo A.Ö.Koçak, Cesa©)



**Fig. 15-** At the same place in Şirvan District, the nymph of *Acrida* (or *Truxalis* ) (Siirt Province) (7.3.2008, photo M.Kemal, Cesa©)





**Fig. 16-** At the same place in Şirvan District, the adult of *Tetrix* sp. (*Tetrigidae*) (Siirt Province) (7.3.2008, photo M.Kemal, Cesa©)



**Fig. 17-** *Calomera fischeri* (*Cicindelidae*) in Siirt District 500m (Siirt Province) (7.3.2008, photo A.Ö.Koçak, Cesa©)





**Fig. 18-** At upper Şirvan mountains, *Crocus biflorus* ssp. *pseudonubigena* (Iridaceae) (det. Lütfi Behçet) (Siirt Province) (7.3.2008, photo M.Kemal, Cesa©)



**Fig. 19-** *Iris persicus* (Iridaceae) (det. Lütfi Behçet) in Siirt District (7.3.2008, photo M.Kemal, Cesa©)





Fig. 20- *Archon apollinaris* (Papilionidae) in Siirt District (7.3.2008, photo M.Kemal, Cesa©)



Fig. 21- *Archon apollinaris* in copula (Papilionidae) in Siirt District (7.3.2008, photo M.Kemal, Cesa©)





**Fig. 22-** Deniz Geçer and Erdem Seven at the Canyon in Şirvan District, 650m (7.3.2008, photo M.Kemal, Cesa©)



**Fig. 23-** A discussing during the field studies in Siirt District (7.3.2008, photo M.Kemal, Cesa©)





**Fig. 24-** During the field studies in Siirt District (7.3.2008, photo M.Kemal, Cesa©)



**Fig. 25-** During the field studies in Siirt District (7.3.2008, photo A.Ö.Koçak, Cesa©)



List of the Recorded Butterflies in Şirvan, Siirt and Eruh District  
in 6-8 March 2008

by  
Muhabbet Kemal Erdem Seven

Among the 9 species, the new faunal records to the Siirt Province are marked by \*.

*Papilionidae*

*Archon apollinaris* (Staudinger,1892)

*Pieridae*

*Pieris rapae* (Linnaeus,1758)

*Pontia edusa* (Fabricius,1777)

*Colias crocea* (Fourcroy,1785)

*Argynnidae*

*Nymphalis polychloros* (Linnaeus,1758)

*Nymphalis xanthomelas* (Esper,[1781])\*

*Polygonia egea* (Cramer,1775)\*

*Vanessa atalanta* (Linnaeus,1758)\*

*Libytheidae*

*Libythea celtis* (Laicharting,1782)\*

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List of the Recorded Orthoptera in Şirvan, Siirt and Eruh District  
in 6-8 March 2008

by  
Ahmet Ömer Koçak Deniz Geçer

The following 6 species were recorded in the Siirt Province.

*Acrididae*

*Acrida / Truxalis* sp.

*Acrotylus* sp. 1

*Acrotylus* sp. 2

*Aiolopus* sp.

*Tetrigidae*

*Tetrix* sp.1

*Tetrix* sp.2



Images Muhabbet Kemal & Ahmet Ömer Koçak, Cesa Archive ©  
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